



**HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT**
consortium

May 5, 2005

Jorge Carrasco
Superintendent, Seattle City Light
P.O. Box 34023
Seattle, WA 98124-4023

Re: Rate Review Process

Dear Superintendent Carrasco,

Thank you for including community stakeholders in your rate review process. The members of the Housing Development Consortium have a long history of fruitful partnership with Seattle City Light and look forward to the continuation of that productive relationship.

We would like to state our concerns and hope you and your staff will take them into consideration as you finalize your proposal.

First, within your revised rate structure, ensure funding to maintain and expand your programs that help conserve energy. Built Smart, HomeWise, LEED and Built Green incentives, appliance rebates and retrofitting programs all have proven extremely useful in the development of low income housing and in reducing the long-term operating costs.

Second, attempt to hold participants in the low income discount program harmless from major rate increases. As you know, it is a great challenge to keep housing costs for the residents of our members' facilities at 30% of their income. In fact, as John Hickman of the Archdiocesan Housing Authority said in response to the proposed rate changes, "Most of our residents do not earn more than the minimum wage, less than \$16,000 per year. Any increase in utilities is a real hardship." It is essential to our members' continued ability to offer a decent place to live to those who make significantly less than the area median income that utility rates stay at or close to their current levels. In your deliberations, remember that a small percentage rate increase has significantly more impact on a very low income household than it does on a middle income household.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Carla Okigwe
Executive Director

AIDS Housing of Washington
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Artspace Projects, Inc.
Capitol Hill Housing
Improvement Program
Central Area Development Association
Common Ground
Community Psychiatric Clinic
Delridge Neighborhoods
Development Association
Downtown Action to Save Housing
Downtown Emergency Service Center
Eastside Housing Association
Habitat for Humanity of
Seattle/South King County
HomeSight
Homestead Community Land Trust
Housing Resources Group
Intercommunity Mercy Housing
Inter*im
Low Income Housing Institute
Lutheran Alliance to
Create Housing
Mount Baker Housing Association
Multi-Service Center
Parkview Services
Pioneer Human Services
Plymouth Housing Group
St. Andrew's Housing Group
SCIDPDA
Seattle Emergency Housing
Service
SouthEast Effective
Development
YWCA

Affording Opportunity

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